

Appl. No. 10/782,259
Reply to Final Office Action of December 14, 2006

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REMARKS

Claims 6-8, 21, 22 and 38-53 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-8, 21 and 22 are amended. Claims 40-53 are canceled. Claims 54-66 are newly added. Reconsideration of Claims 6-8, 21, 22 and 54-66 of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Action objects to Claims 38 and 39 for the informalities of the claim preamble. The preamble of Claim 6 has been amended to recite a display device. Claims 7, 8, 21 and 22 are amended in consistency with the amendments of Claim 6. No new matter is raised. The preambles of original Claims 38 and 39 recite a display device. Withdrawal of the objections to Claims 38 and 39 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Action rejects Claims 6-8, 21, 22, 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,587,589 to So et al. ("So").

Claim 6 has been amended to recite "... one or more layers of material disposed over a first substrate having a pixel within a display region; a first material layer formed over the one or more layers of material, the first material layer extending from the display region to a sealant region ...". In short, the first material layer is formed over the one or more layers of material which are formed over a pixel within a display region.

Claim 6 is amended in a better form to recite the features of the previously presented Claim 6. No new matter is added.

So discloses a two-dimensional array of organic light emitting diodes (LEDs). In its FIG. 2, So shows a cross-sectional view of a single LED 20. (Col. 3, Lines 18-20). LED 20 includes substrate 21 upon which light transmissive layer 22, i.e., an electrode, is formed. Dielectric layer 24 (referred to as the first material layer recited in Claim 6) is formed over light transmissive layer 22. Electroluminescent medium 25 is formed within the cavity of dielectric layer 24. Metal layer 27, i.e., another electrode, is formed over the electroluminescent medium

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25. (Col. 3, Lines 21-57). In short, single LED 20, i.e., a pixel, has a stacked structure including: light transmissive layer 22, electroluminescent medium 25 and metal layer 27. Clearly, dielectric layer 24 is horizontally adjacent to single LED 20 formed within the cavity and covered by metal electroluminescent medium 25 and metal layer 27. Accordingly, dielectric layer 24 is **NOT** formed over one or more layers of material which form a pixel within a display region.

Further, nothing in So's description or drawings show that parallel openings expose a surface of the one or more layers of material, that a sealant is disposed over and contacts the first material layer and is disposed within the openings and contacts the exposed surface of the one or more layers of material, that the sealant seals the sealant region between the first and second substrates and that the sealant has substantially flat contact surfaces with the first material layer and the exposed surface of the one or more layers of material. Accordingly, So fails to teach or suggest these features recited in the amended Claim 6. Thus, Claim 6 is not anticipated by So. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 is respectfully requested and Claim 6 is therefore allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 7, 8, 21, 22, 37 and 38 depend from Claim 6 and are therefore allowable via virtue of their dependencies.

Based on the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to Claims 6-8, 21, 22, 37 and 38 are respectfully requested.

Claims 54-66

Claims 54-66 are newly added. Support for Claims 54-66 can be found at, for example, paragraphs [0021]-[0027] and FIGS. 4a-4c, 5 and 6a-6c. No new matter is added.

Claim 54 recites:

A display device, the display device comprising a display region and a sealant region, the sealant region having a width and surrounding the display region, comprising:

a first substrate having a first material layer formed over the display region and the sealant region of the first substrate, the first material layer covering at least one pixel within the display region;

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a second material layer formed on the first material layer, the second material layer having a plurality of openings in the sealant region, each of the openings being substantially parallel to the width of the sealant region and exposing part of the first material layer;

a sealant disposed on the second material layer and within the openings to contact the exposed first material layer; and

a second substrate disposed on the sealant for attaching thereon.

Like Claim 1, So fails to teach or suggest the first material layer covering at least one pixel within the display region, a second material layer formed on the first material layer and each of the openings being substantially parallel to a direction of the width of the sealant region and exposing part of the first material layer. Further, So also fails to teach or suggest each of the openings being substantially parallel to a direction of the width of the sealant region.

Accordingly, Claim 54 is also distinguished from So and is therefore allowable thereover.

Claims 55-66 depend from Claim 54. Claims 55-66 are distinguished over So via virtue of their dependencies and therefore allowable.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

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